

Filed 10/24/03

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Amended) An isolated polynucleotide which is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

21. (Previously Amended) An isolated polynucleotide which is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

22. (Previously Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claims 20 or 21, wherein said polynucleotide is native to the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

23. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

24. (Allowed) The polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is a DNA.

25. (Allowed) The polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is a RNA.

26. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 342 to 1610.

27. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof encoding a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

29. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1.

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III. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide ~~native to the genus Corynebacterium~~, which is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

21. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide ~~native to the genus Corynebacterium~~, which is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

22. (Previously Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claims 20 or 21, wherein said polynucleotide is native to the species Corynebacterium glutamicum.

23. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

24. (Allowed) The polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is a DNA.

25. (Allowed) The polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is a RNA.

26. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 342 to 1610.

27. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof encoding a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

29. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1.

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